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STATE DOCUMENTS

NINTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SUPERINTENDENT
OF
STATE ORPHANS' HOME
OF THE
STATE OF MONTANA
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1902.

TWIN BRIDGES, MONTANA.

VIRGINIA CITY, MONT.
PRESS OF THE MADISONIAN
1902.

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Twin Bridges, Montana.

Opened September 26, 1894.

WILEY MOUNTJOY, - - - - - Superintendent

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

[illegible]

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE STATE ORPHANS' HOME

For Fiscal Year Ending November 30, 1902.

To the Board of Trustees:

Gentlemen:—I submit for your information and consideration my report for the fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1902. Also that through you the governor and people of Montana may be advised of the work and condition of the institution for which you are, in large measure, responsible.

During the past year the Home has been singularly free from any casualties, accidents, and diseases of all kinds; but it is with sadness, and for the first time, I record the death of one of your own number. J. W. Brook, who had faithfully served the institution for more than five years, passed away on the 8th of last May. While he had not been in robust health for some time, his death was very sudden and unexpected. He attended a meeting of this board on the 3d, and was engaged in his ordinary business on the day of his death. Mr. Brook had spent more than thirty years of his life in Montana. He had seen it grow from a sparsely settled Territory to a place of wealth and importance among the sisterhood of States. He was an active, interested participant in this growth. He was a warm friend of this institution, and of every worthy cause. He was a man of good thought and good impulses. He was a useful citizen and a good man in all the walks of life. By appointment of Governor Toole, Mr. Marcus Elser of Sheridan became his worthy successor.

It has been eight years since this institution began its work. Then it had a future only; then its most ardent supporters could only prophecy and promise. Now it has a past. Some of the prophecies have been fulfilled and many of the promises realized. We have passed the period of experiment, if work of this kind can be properly termed an experiment. We have reached a point where we can take a broader outlook. We are beginning to take account of results. These all bespeak the wise foresight of its founders. "Wisdom is always justified of her children." Institutions, as well as persons and things, are known by their fruits.

By reference to Table No. 2, it will be observed that: "We have received altogether 340 children and that there are now in the Home 109. Of the 266 who have been returned to relatives, indentured, etc., only 35 have been returned to the Home. Thus showing that more than two-thirds of our family are away from home. These are in homes in various parts of the State and some in other States. Some discharged as self-supporting. I have had many encouraging reports from these and many expressions of gratitude for what the Home has done for them."

One boy, after he had been away about two years, wrote giving some account of his experiences, and closed by saying, "Tell the boys that it takes one who has been through what I have to say to them that they have one of the best of homes and schools." Another, who had gone to a distant State, wrote that while he never expected to return to Montana, that it would always be the dearest place on earth to him. After asking to be remembered to the Board of Trustees and helpers he added, "I owe my life to the people of Montana." Two of our girls are attending college, paying their own way either by work or by money they have earned. At least five have married and are now presiding over homes of their own. Wonderful to relate, though the institution is only

eight years old, it is a grandmother. To take destitute children, give them a home, feed, clothe, school and brighten their lives a little while is no inconsiderable work, but from the examples given above the work has a wider scope, and a more endearing interest. It has helped many to get hold of life and learn what it means to live, and has aroused in some a laudable ambition. They are making homes and places for themselves.

Then, the younger children have gone to warm and brighten the homes that had never known the light and laughter of childhood, or homes that the shadow and darkness of death had entered.

PLACING IN HOMES.

Thus far no effort has been made to find homes for the children. The homes have sought the children. We have no agency for that purpose. Applications have come directly to the Home: generally by letter. The Board has required recommendations from two or more parties as to the character of the applicant and ability to provide a good home. Children are generally taken on trial with the privilege of returning them to the Home if not satisfactory. Board in all cases reserves the right to have children returned at the expense of parties taking them, if at any time it is thought best for the children.

Children are always surrendered to parents when there is reasonable assurance that they are able to provide for them. In many instances children placed in homes have been a recommendation to the institution, as other applications have come from the same neighborhood, giving as a reason that, "We have seen Mr. A's boy and hope we may get one as good," etc. In this way we frequently place several children in the same community. It also works the other way. We seldom get a second application from a community where a child has proven unsatisfactory. It is easy for people to draw the illogical conclusion that they are all alike. The old fallacy of "from one judge all."

We feel that the most satisfactory homes are those that ask for babies or young children to rear as their own. There may be an element of selfishness even in this, but there is at least assurance that they are not seeking to save servant hire. While I feel sure that the Board has tried to exercise a wise precaution in committing children to strangers, and I have sought by correspondence to gain some information in regard to the homes and conditions still it remains true that our information, in regard to children at a distance, is meager and unsatisfactory. However, there is encouragement in the fact that a comparatively small per cent have been returned, and, so far as we can ascertain, few misfits or failures. Still we feel much better about those children of whom we have the personal knowledge that they are happily situated. This brings up the question of

SUPERVISION.

The question of the oversight of those we place in homes is a question of vital importance to the institution. Some other States have adopted the plan of employing an agent who devotes his time to the supervision of this work. He visits the homes of those who propose to take children, investigates and makes recommendations, either favorable or unfavorable. When children are placed in homes he visits them occasionally until he is satisfied that they are well situated. The older institutions regard this feature of their work as indispensable. Montana is a large State. It is thinly populated. Its communities are widely scattered, and the expense of travel is considerable. For these reasons it may not be deemed wise to employ a State Agent for the present. The immediate needs of the work may be met by making it the duty of some one in each County to look after the children from this institution in that county. It seems to me the law could designate and make this the duty of some county official. It occurred to me that the County Superintendent was the proper official for this duty and so recommended to the last legislature, but it took no action in the matter. It would not add much work and is just in line with the other duties of that office. It would serve another purpose. It would bring

this institution into closer touch with the public school system of the state, of which it is really a part. Even if we should have a State Agent there will be needed an agent in each County to co-operate with him. I think we can start the work of supervision in no better way.

OTHER NEEDED LEGISLATION.

I am disposed to think that this institution does not, and never will, need much legislation. It is easy to see how legislative enactments might lead to endless red tape and much complexity and confusion. Much should be left to the wisdom and discretion of the local management. Such, doubtless, was the intention of its founders. Some of the provisions of that law we have are indefinite and vague, and there are some things for which it does not provide at all. For instance, it provides that "every orphan, foundling, and destitute child, under 12 years of age, shall be entitled to be received within said Home, at the expense of the State."

This is too broad. It includes the blind, the crippled and the feeble minded. It should be the destitute and dependent who are sound in body and mind. Again, no provision is made for the commitment of children. Who is to pass upon the eligibility of children for admission? Of course the Board of Trustees must take final action in the matter. But who in every county is to enquire into each case and report facts to this Board? The law does not say. Many of the County Attorneys of the State who had been asked how children were to be sent to the Home have written me that they could find nothing, and pronounced this a defect in the law.

This might also be made the duty of the Superintendent of Schools, or possibly the County Attorney. It ought to be the duty of some one in every case of supposed destitution to make diligent inquiry into the facts and conditions to report same to the County Commissioners, who, if facts justify, will make application to this Board for admission to the Home, accompanying application with ascertained facts and circumstances.

The law makes no provisions for the discharge of inmates. After all due precautions some may be admitted who ought not to be here. We have a few of that kind now. It seems to me that the law ought to provide for their return to the Counties from whence they were sent. In cases of incorrigibility this Board ought to be authorized either to transfer to the Reform School or return to the County sending them. Again the law does not fix an age for the discharge of children. I think the law should fix a minimum age, subject to the discretion of the local Board. If a child should be kept here until of age and is still dependent what shall be done with him? Shall he be returned to his own County or become a charge on the County in which the Home is located. The law should cover all these cases in a way to allow the Board to act at least.

ECONOMY.

If there is one thing that you have insisted on more than another it is economy in management. It has been your aim to run the institution with as little cost to the State as possible, and at the same time carry out its purposes. The maximum of good with minimum of cost seems to be the motto. I have tried to carry out your wishes and to fully co-operate with you for this end, with what success the record will show. So far as I have been able to look up the matter no similar institution in the United States can show a lower per capita cost. The Fiscal Secretary of Charities for New York, who has taken the pains to gather the statistics of these institutions throughout the country, wrote me that ours showed a per capita cost for maintenance considerably below the average. He asked me for more information in detail.

I want especially to speak of its economy in another direction. It actually saves money to the people while it, at the same time, makes better provision for destitute children than could be done otherwise. Each county could not afford to build and equip an institution of its own. The county farm is confessedly an unfit place for children, even to provide the necessaries of life. To farm them

out, at so much a head, to any one who would take them, would be very unsatisfactory, and doubtless more expensive. By placing the dependent and destitute children here, the counties co-operate in their support, the children soon find homes elsewhere, and the state is relieved of their support altogether. The greatest economic consideration of all is that it saves the children; saves them from neglect, saves them from idleness, and in many cases, no doubt, from crime. No taxpayer who has ever visited the institution and become acquainted with the work it is doing and what it proposes to do, has ever complained of the cost. They see at once that it is the cheapest and best way to do what must be done. There is but one sentiment, and that is that the Home should not be hampered in its work on account of a lack of funds.

BUILDING AND IMPROVEMENTS.

The last Legislature appropriated \$17,500.00 for building purposes. Of this amount \$12,500.00 was for addition to main building, and \$5,000.00 for nursery building. The Board let contracts calling for the completion of these buildings by the first of November last year. They were not completed until February of this year. The addition to the main building has very nearly, if not quite, as much room as the old part. Several of the rooms are large and adapted to the purpose for which they were designed. While no attempt was made at elaborate architectural display, and no expensive material was used in construction, the building, as a whole, makes a very pleasing appearance. I think the main building is now sufficient for all administrative purposes, and that future needs should be met by smaller buildings, and with reference to special needs.

The new buildings, besides giving us increased, and, I think, ample dining room, dormitory, lavatory and bath room facilities, enables us to have two large play rooms, one each for boys and girls; two reading rooms (though small), a commodious trustees' room, storage rooms, closets, etc.

The nursery was built with special reference to its use. It is designed to accommodate about thirty small children. The children under school age are placed there under the special care of a nurse. The first floor has a large play room, dining room, scullery, day nurse's room, bath room and closets. The second floor, two dormitories, night nurse's room, and an extra bed room. These buildings have relieved our crowded condition, and gives us room for about fifty more children without undue crowding.

These buildings involved other improvements. The most important, in my judgment, was the construction of a sewer. The main sewer is about 1200 feet long, and is of 8 inch cement pipe. The drainage pipes of the main building, nursery and hospital are connected with this by 6-inch cement pipes. The main pipe taps a strong flowing stream, a part of which is deflected into it, the water flowing rapidly through and discharging all waste into a slough which empties into the Beaverhead river. The entire cost was \$501.50.

We depend upon a windmill for our water supply. There is nothing in this country more abundant and cheaper than wind. However, it does not always blow even in the Jefferson valley, a popular notion to the contrary notwithstanding. It was found necessary to build a large tank. A cypress tank with a capacity of 5000 gallons was built near the windmill, upon a substructure 20 feet high, and water piped to the various buildings. The tank, substructure, piping, frostproofing and all cost \$813.00. Some changes had to be made in the heating, which required larger pipes, additional plumbing, etc. These improvements, together with the furniture that was absolutely necessary to enable us to use the new buildings, caused a draft upon our maintenance fund that involved a deficiency for this biennial period. Otherwise the amount appropriated by the last Legislature would have been ample.

HEALTH.

The uninterrupted good health throughout the year, the entire absence of any epidemics and contagious diseases, are little short of the marvelous. There



NURSERY BUILDING.

has never been but one death from disease contracted in the Home. There has never been the death of a child more than one year old. The cost of medical attendance this year, with an average of 115 children, was \$17.00. This record of good health, I think, is due to several causes; among which may be mentioned Montana's salubrious climate, healthfulness of our location, abundance of plain, wholesome diet, plenty of fresh air and outdoor exercise, and the promptness with which the Matron treats every symptom of disease.

MANAGEMENT AND DISCIPLINE.

It is impossible to enter into all the minutiae and details of the management and care of so many children. Tabular statements and figures may express many things and set forth important results, but the best things in life can't always be told in words or put down in figures. Our aim is to make the Institution as much like a family home as possible, with so many. We require order, neatness and obedience. We secure these by kindness and persuasion, if possible. Where penalties are necessary, we try to adapt them to the nature of the offense. Corporal punishment is the dernier resort.

To keep a child busy, either at work or play, is to solve the question of discipline. A busy man, as a rule, has neither time nor inclination to make trouble with his neighbors. Idleness is the source of much crime among men. It is also the occasion of mischief and wrong doing among children. We keep our children busy. Their time is well divided between study, work and play. Every child over five years of age has some task. They keep the halls, school rooms and other public rooms, wash dishes, wait on table, help in kitchen, laundry, milk, etc. The older boys also mend all the shoes.

There is a popular notion that these children would be difficult to manage. Some associate poverty and vice. The children sent here are not supposed to be either criminal or incorrigible; nor have we found them to be so. All are children of misfortune. Many show evidences of neglect. Others have known homes of some refinement, where they had conscientious training. A few, while not criminal themselves, are the victims of crime. Some show criminal tendencies. A very few have known squalor and want, even to hunger and emaciation. Taken altogether, they will compare favorably with the same number gathered promiscuously in the average community.

THE SCHOOL.

We think our school is equal, both in character and efficiency, to the average public school, at least. We have school for nine calendar months, from the first of October to the first of July. We employ teachers qualified and authorized to teach in our public schools. For the last year we have had an average of about ninety pupils and have employed three teachers.

Our school, as well as other departments of our work, is disturbed somewhat by the coming and going of children.

FACTS AND INFORMATION.

The Home is supported wholly by appropriations by the Legislature. We have no land grants. Destitution and dependence the only price of admission. We have many requests to take children for pay. We can't do this. This is not a boarding school nor an infirmary.

We are not prepared to care for crippled, deformed or feeble-minded children.

The law makes the Board of Trustees the guardian of all children placed in the Home.

The Board of Trustees does not promise to keep children until parents are able to take care of them. If children are still here when parents become able to care for them, they are gladly returned to them.

The State does not pay the expenses of children, either to or from the Home. State provides clothing, schooling and everything needed after children are received.

Children may be adopted or indentured. We do not guarantee pedigree or undertake to furnish any particular shade of hair, complexion or eyes.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

TABLE NO. 1.

Showing number of children received, etc.

Number December 1, 1901:			
Boys	64		
Girls	40		
	—	104	
Received during year:			
Boys	31		
Girls	17		
	—	48	
Total inmates for year.....		—	152
Placed in homes, etc.:			
Boys	39		
Girls	17		
	—	56	
		—	96
Returned to home	13		
Total inmates December 1, 1902:			
Boys	66		
Girls	43		
	—		109

As a rule we receive more boys than girls and send away more girls than boys. These two facts tend to make it more and more a boys' institution. I notice the same is true of other Homes.

This year has proven an exception in one particular. We have had an unusual demand for boys. We have received 31 boys and sent 39 away. We have received 17 girls and sent away 17.

TABLE NO. 2.

Showing number of children received from Sept. 26, 1894 to Dec. 1, 1902.

Boys	201
Girls	139
Total	340
Total number admitted	340
Placed in homes, etc.....	266
Total.....	74
Returned to the home	35
Present inmates.....	109

TABLE NO. 3.

Showing number received from and number given homes in each county.

	Received	Given homes
Beaverhead	22	18
Cascade	21	14
Carbon	2	2
Choteau	4	6
Custer	6	3
Deer Lodge.....	13	10
Fergus	11	5
Flathead	2	.....
Gallatin	10	7
Jefferson	12	3
Lewis and Clark	25	3
Madison	45	54
Meagher	2	3
Missoula	14	7
Park	5	9
Ravalli.....	3	3
Silver Bow.....	115	55
Valley	1	.....
Yellowstone.	4	3
Powell . . . . .	.....	3
Granite.	20	4
Other States:		
Iowa		1
North Dakota		2
Minnesota.....		2
Idaho.....		11
Oregon.....		1
Wyoming		1

TABLE NO. 4.

Showing movement of population for six years.

	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902
Number at beginning of year	63	72	80	105	92	101
Admitted.....	23	31	51	31	61	48
Indentured, etc.....	17	26	31	52	53	56
Died		1	1	.....	1	..
Returned to Home.....	3	1	3	8	5	13
Number at close of year	72	80	105	92	101	109

TABLE NO. 5.
Showing Monthly Expenditures in detail.

Account	Dec.	Jan.	Feby.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Totals
Wages	\$567 00	\$579 85	\$609 00	\$586 50	\$615 00	\$630 00	\$592 50	\$520 50	\$493 00	\$512 15	\$607 50	\$561 00	\$6,874 00
Provisions ..	930 74	255 12	332 21	1,030 00	412 18	441 10	861 60	226 14	224 16	913 99	272 85	421 20	6,324 39
Dry goods	791 63	264 74	151 15	74 85	20 40	62 71	8 75	11 30	574 24	16 48	20 00	1 40	2,000 75
Fuel and light ..	117 35	157 15	211 91	151 80	74 13	157 33	29 85	.....	.....	84 15	121 88	81 70	1,157 25
Hardware, etc.....	207 07	.....	.....	.....	.....	265 30	.....	13 10	.....	.....	43 50	.....	628 97
Shoes.....	484 25	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	484 25
Miscel. exp.....	119 55	86 63	108 22	45 41	105 67	36 33	33 41	86 37	21 60	55 45	20 55	14 10	733 29
Trustees.....	34 65	.....	.....	.....	.....	239 40	.....	.....	.....	.....	115 20	.....	409 25
Med. attendance.	11 00	.....	6 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	17 00
Furniture.....	.....	593 15	108 00	.....	.....	135 88	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	837 03
Books, etc.....	.....	.....	138 70	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	18 85	.....	157 55
Per capita totals...	\$3,363 24	\$1,836 64	\$1,665 19	\$1,888 56	\$1,227 38	\$1,991 05	\$1,526 11	857 41	\$1,313 10	\$1,582 22	\$1,220 33	\$1,082 50	\$19,653 73
Insurance	256 25	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	256 25
Building	36 00	1,600 00	3,131 57	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,767 57
Imp. and repairs..	.....	118 50	431 53	41 50	173 75	.....	.....	136 35	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$951 45
Totals.....	\$3,655 49	\$3,655 14	\$5,278 11	\$1,930 06	\$1,401 13	\$1,991 05	\$1,525 11	\$993 76	\$1,113 10	\$1,582 22	\$1,220 33	\$1,082 50	\$25,629 00

TABLE NO. 6.

Summary of Expenditures for the two years 1901 and 1902.

	1901	1902
Wages	\$6,135 27	\$6,874 00
Provisions	6,041 25	6,324 39
Hardware, etc.	704 66	628 97
Dry goods and shoes	1,983 13	2,485 00
Fuel and lights.....	1,444 78	1,187 25
Miscellaneous expense	781 60	733 29
Improvements, etc.....	444 75	951 45
Trustee account	449 80	409 25
Insurance	358 00	256 25
Medical attendance.....	70 00	17 00
Books and stationery	46 45	157 55
Furniture .....	.....	837 03
Total.....	\$18,459 69	\$20,891 43
Building Account.		
Main building.....	\$8,992 75	\$2,767 57
Nursery	3,000 00	2,000 00
Sewer	501 50	.....
Water tank	833 92	.....
Total ..	\$13,328 17	\$4,767 57
Appropriations.		
Maintenance ...	\$18,000 00	\$20,000 00
Building	15,500 00	2,000 00
Total.....	\$33,500 00	\$22,000 00
Total expenditures for two years.....		\$57,446 69
Total appropriations for two years		55,500 00
Deficiency for two years		\$1,946 69

TABLE NO. 7.

Employees and Monthly Salary of Each.

Wiley Mountjoy, Superintendent	\$100 00
Mrs. Wiley Mountjoy, Matron.....	50 00
Mrs. Jessie Cowan, Assistant Matron	30 00
R. R. Tovey, Fireman, etc.....	40 00
Mrs. R. R. Tovey, Laundress.....	40 00
Mrs. H. L. Willett, Cook	40 00
Miss Blanche Bailey, Teacher.....	35 00
Miss Mary Chapman, Teacher.....	35 00
Miss Bessie Vaughn, Teacher	35 00
Miss Ada Edson, Seamstress	30 00
Miss Rose Carney, Seamstress	30 00
Miss Laura Marshall, Dining Room.	30 00
Mrs. A. Desmeris, Baker, etc.....	30 00
Miss Mabel Putnam, Nurse.....	30 00
Miss Carrie Mathews, Night Nurse.	30 00

TABLE NO. 8.

Inventory.

52 acres of land.....	\$2,600 00
Buildings and improvements.....	42,500 00
Furniture, tools, etc.....	3,000 00
Eight cows.....	400 00
Three horses.....	250 00
10 tons hay.....	60 00
6 dozen chickens.....	30 00
10,000 lbs potatoes.....	75 00
Cabbage, beets, etc.....	25 00
Groceries on hand.....	100 00
Dry goods, clothing, etc.....	750 00
Total.....	\$49,790 00

TABLE NO. 9.

Showing Products of Farm and Garden—(Estimated).

12,000 lbs of potatoes.....	\$90 00
Cabbage, beets, etc.....	60 00
12 tons of hay.....	72 00
7 calves.....	45 00
10 hogs.....	100 00
600 dozen eggs at 25c.....	150 00
5,000 gallons of milk at 20c.....	1,000 00
Pasturing 8 cows and 3 horses 12 months.....	132 00
Total.....	\$1,642 00

RECOMMENDATIONS.

First—That the Legislature be asked to appropriate \$1,500.00 for the erection of a barn. This has been needed from the first and has been asked for several times. We have not sufficient stable room for our own horses and cows, to say nothing of the stable room for the horses of the Trustees or others whose business sometimes requires a short stay at the Home.

Second—We have always felt the need of some better way of lighting the buildings. We use coal oil lamps. It necessitates considerable work, and is attended with more or less danger from fire, especially when it is necessary for children to handle the lamps. I am not informed as to the probable cost of an electric plant sufficient for lighting all the buildings, but I believe it would be wise for the State to make an appropriation for such a plant. It should have sufficient power to run laundry machinery and pump water to the tanks. We need some power to supplement the windmill. We find, by experience, that the windmill cannot be relied upon for a constant supply of water. It would not require much additional power to run laundry and pump water occasionally.

Third—We need more land. There is about 40 acres owned by Lott Bros. which the Home has used from the first for pasture, and for which we paid a nominal rent. This is almost indispensable to the Home for pasture, etc. The owners are willing to sell this tract, and I think its purchase should not be delayed. It might pass into the hands of parties who would not deal so liberally with us. There is a splendid farm of about 700 acres lying west of and adjoining the Home grounds. To purchase the entire farm, I believe, would be a wise and farsighted investment for the State. With this ranche we could produce all our own butter, meat and milk, besides furnishing employment and useful training for the older children.

If our number should increase to 200 or 250 in the near future, which seems altogether probable, a ranche like this or a manual training school would be almost a necessity. I believe the ranche would be preferable.

Estimated Cost of Maintenance for the Biennial Period 1903 and 1904:

	1903	1904
Wages.....	\$8,000 00	\$8,500 00
Provisions.....	6,500 00	7,500 00
Dry goods and clothing.....	2,000 00	2,500 00
Shoes.....	500 00	500 00
Fuel and lights.....	1,500 00	1,500 00
Improvements and repairs.....	1,000 00	1,000 00
Hardware and fittings.....	400 00	400 00
Miscellaneous expense.....	600 00	600 00
Trustees.....	100 00	400 00
Medical attendance.....	200 00	200 00
Amusements.....	100 00	100 00
Furniture.....	1,000 00	.....
Books and stationery.....	300 00	300 00
Total.....	\$22,500 00	\$23,500 00

This estimate is based on the cost of the past two years, and the supposition that our average attendance will not reach more than 130. If it should go much beyond that, the estimate is too low. As there are several elements of uncertainty, we can only approximate.

In conclusion I desire to thank all the members of the Board for their kindly interest and cordial support in all that seemed for the welfare of the children and progress of the Home.

WILEY MOUNTJOY,

Superintendent.

Approved Dec. 6th, 1902.

PAT CARNEY, Chairman.

J. R. COMFORT, Secretary.

AMOS EASTMAN, Treasurer.

W. M. OLIVER.

MARCUS ELSER.



